

THE LIQUOR PROBLEM.—I.

It is almost an axiom that the sale of alcoholic liquor to be used as a beverage is an evil. It is not only an evil to those who buy beyond their means and use without discretion, but it is also an evil to those who never buy nor use. The drunkard's wife feels the evil even more keenly than the drunkard himself. His children suffer privation and shame because of his wicked folly. His unborn babe takes into its veins a poison which the father acquired in the dram shop. The inexorable laws of heredity decree to many a youth an almost uncontrollable appetite, for which he is in no way accountable. The iniquities of the fathers are fearfully visited upon the children. Besides the drunkard's family, his neighbor suffers for his weakness. He suffers for the fearful influence which one man exerts upon others. No man liveth unto himself. How many mothers have prayed in anguish for the salvation of their sons from temptations which could not be presented to them but for the drunkard! Who has not known of a father's anxiety to keep his boy away from the atmosphere which is foul with the drunkard's profanity and the drunkard's obscene language? An atmosphere thus polluted is the native element of the dram shop. But this atmosphere is not confined to the dram shop. It is carried out into the streets. It offends gentlemen. It shocks ladies. It contaminates children. It carries with it a contagion of vice which all too often takes hold upon the children who come in contact with it. Drunkenness is fostered by the dram shop. It is the companion of crime, if, indeed, it is not a crime itself. It is the parent of poverty. Dr. Baer, statistician of the German Empire, says it produces 75 per cent. of the crimes of that country. Yet that is sober, beer-drinking Germany! Surely beer has not proved itself the antidote for drunkenness that its votaries claim it to be, when the officials in its own country arraign drunkenness for 75 per cent. of all the crime committed in that empire. Chief Justice Coleridge says: "If you could make England sober you could destroy nine-tenths of all the poor-houses and jails in England." A few years ago the Canadian Government appointed a committee to ascertain, if possible, the greatest cause of crime. They examined 28,000 cases, covering a space of three years, and attributed 21,000 of them to the use of intoxicating liquors. Statistics of the Massachusetts Bureau show that 84 per cent. of all the crimes committed in that State are due to it. Is all of the crime and all of the poverty caused by this mammoth evil of no concern to any one who does not patronize the rum-seller? It certainly concerns others, and that very deeply. The dram shop fosters drunkenness. It thus blights industry, increases poverty, fills jails, ruins men, robs women of more than money can buy, punishes children for crimes not their own, and sends its own contagion and the contagion of its companion vices coursing down through generations yet unborn. It is the enemy of all that tries to elevate society. It injures innocent men, women and children. Its victims far exceed in number all of its patrons! It is a curse to all classes of society. Does this seem like a strong arraignment? There is nothing new in it.

The dram shop is not to be tried on this arraignment. The trial is already over. The dram shop is found guilty. It stands convicted before the civilized world. Why does a dram seller have to pay \$1,000 for his license, while a grocer or a clothier pays but a small percentage of that sum? It is because the dram seller stands at the bar of public opinion convicted of keeping a public nuisance. The license fee is in the nature of a fine. It is true that society in most of the civilized world has dealt with this particular nuisance in a singular way. It says in effect that the dram seller may continue to keep his nuisance provided he will pay his fine in advance. But the payment of the fine, whether in advance or otherwise, indicates conviction. He has appealed to the courts against the conviction at the bar of public opinion, but he has not bettered himself by it. He has ceased to appeal on a fine payable in advance. But when steps are taken to abate the nuisance, he appeals. One of these appeals was lately heard in the Supreme Court of the United States. In deciding the case Justice Harlan, speaking for the Court, said: "We cannot shut out of view the fact that public health, morals and public safety may be endangered by the general use of intoxicating drinks, nor can we ignore the fact that the disorder, pauperism and crime, prevalent in the country, are in a large measure directly traceable to this end. If, therefore, the State deems the absolute prohibition of the manufacture and sale within it of intoxicating liquors to be necessary to the peace and security of society, the courts cannot override the will of the people as thus expressed by their chosen representatives." Again, in speaking of the argument that the prohibitory law of Kansas violates a provision in the Constitution of the United States similar to that of Article 1 of the Constitution of the Hawaiian Islands, that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law, the Court, through Justice Harlan, says: "All property under our form of Government is subject to the obligation that it shall not be used so as to injuriously affect the rights of the community and thereby become a nuisance. The State of Kansas had the right to prohibit the liquor traffic. It did not thereby take away property of the brewers. It simply abated a nuisance. The property is not taken away from the owners. They are only prohibited from using it for the specific purpose which the Legislature declared injurious to the community." Society in Kansas condemned the dram shop as a nuisance. An appeal was taken from this verdict of public opinion, and the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed the decision. "It [Kansas] simply abated a nuisance," is language plain enough to satisfy any one as to the opinion of the highest court in America.

The liquor problem is not whether or not it is the duty of the State to suppress the dram shop. That is already settled. The question is, "How can the dram shop be most effectively repressed?" As will be learned from a glance at the foregoing argument, if any proof is needed, this is matter of

great importance. The Custom House statistics show that the sale of liquors has not been greatly checked. Is anything further in this line desirable, or has drunkenness been effectually suppressed? To ask the question is to answer it. What further legislation on this subject, if any, is desirable? Hereafter I shall try to answer this question.

HENRY S. TOWNSEND.

FOOD ADULTERATION.

II. Notes on Its History and Legislation.

[Read before the Social Science Club in December, 1887, by L. L. Van Slyke, Professor of Chemistry, Oahu College.]

We shall be in error if we suppose that the adulteration of food is an offense peculiar to the 19th century. There are records left of ancient sophistications practised by the Greek and Roman traders. According to a well known tale, Archimedes, the philosopher of Syracuse, two and a half centuries before Christ, detected the base metal in the crown of Hiero by its specific gravity; and this may be accepted as the earliest scientific detection of adulteration. Pliny refers to the frauds practised by bakers, who added to their bread a kind of white earth. In Athens the adulteration of wine was so great that a special inspector was appointed to detect and stop the practices. The Romans were similarly troubled.

The Middle Ages, however, afford the most abundant and interesting materials for a history of adulteration. In England and in Europe generally from the 11th century onwards, the bakers, the brewers, the "pepperers," and the vintners were most frequently accused of these practices. In the latter part of the 12th century, that which would now be considered high crime became the favorite amusement of the leading citizens, "who would sally forth by night, in bands of a hundred or more, for an attack upon the houses of their neighbors. They killed without mercy every man who came in their way and vied with each other in brutality."

False weights, false measures, false pretences of all kinds were the instruments of commerce most generally in use. No buyer would trust the word of a seller, and there was hardly any class, in which a man might not with reason suspect that his neighbor intended to rob or even to murder him.

In England, as early as King John's time, restrictions were put upon the adulteration of bread and severe penalties attached. Regulations were also early enforced in France to guard against the adulteration of bread and other substances. In 1525, a tricky baker, convicted of making "false bread," was condemned by the court to traverse Paris, clothed only in a shirt, with small leaves hung about his neck, and a lighted candle in his hand, and in the most public places of the city, to confess his crime and ask mercy, and pardon of God, the king, and justice. In some places in Germany, in the 15th century, a bread adulterator was put into a basket at the end of a long pole, and ducked in a good sized mud-puddle. At Bierich on the Rhine, a wine sophisticator was compelled to drink six quarts of his own concoction, and, as might be imagined, died in the act. As early as the reign of Edward the Confessor, brewing had been declared a crime, and the offender was taken around the town in the cart in which the refuse of the place had been collected, and to this degradation was often added corporal punishment.

In the 16th century, we find in many towns of England an officer known as the "ale-taster," whose duty it was to inspect beer. In 1529, for example, the mayor of Guildford ordered that the brewers make a good and useful ale, and that they sell none until it be tasted by the ale-taster. The ale was not only tasted but some of it was spilt on a wooden seat, and on the wet place the taster sat, attired in leather breeches. If sugar had been added to the beer, the taster's breeches stuck to the seat, so that he could not get up readily; but if sugar had not been added, the dried extract was not adhesive. With the use of the polariscope and modern chemical methods for detecting and estimating sugar, this method has fallen into disuse.

In the course of time, the vintners became more skilled and scientific in their operations. In London they organized into a fraternity of chemical operators, who did their work underground in holes, caverns, and dark retirements, to conceal their mysteries from the eyes and observation of mankind. Addison, in the *Tatler*, No. 131, 1710, alluding to this fraternity, says: "These subtle philosophers are daily employed in the transmutation of liquors, and by the power of magical drugs and incantations raise under the streets of London the choicest products of the hills and valleys of France; they squeeze Bordeaux out of the shoe and draw champagne from the apple."

The outcome of the early attempts to punish adulteration was the introduction of the protective legal enactments in force in several countries at the present day.

In France the "Conseil de Salubrité" or Board of Health was established at Paris in 1802. Originally it took cognizance of adulteration, epizootics, unhealthy trades and later had the direction generally speaking of public hygiene. For the detection of the adulteration of foods and other commercial products, there was established seven or eight years ago a large laboratory with numerous skilled analytical chemists in charge. Foods, liquids, drugs, etc., are purchased by special agents and analyzed by the government chemists. The analyses are public records. If any goods are found to be adulterated, imitated or diluted, the manufacturer immediately becomes a "suspect," and other samples of his goods are purchased and analyzed. If then found guilty, he is fined or imprisoned, his conviction published in the official papers, and a copy of the judgment posted conspicuously in his place of business.

In England a general anti-adulteration agitation began about 1850 and led to the parliamentary act of 1855, appointing a select committee, the result of whose labors was the passing in 1860 of the first general act against adulteration. Upon the parliamentary act of 1855 Tennyson based the fierce invective of his "Maud" published in that year.

"Peace in her vineyard—yes! but a company forges the wine.
And the vitriol madness flashes up in the ruffian's head,
Till the filthy by-lane rings to the yell of the trampled wife,
While chalk and alum and plasters are sold to the poor for bread,
And the spirit of murder works in the very means of life."

To this lurid picture, Tennyson added another horror by describing the adulteration of drugs, and portrayed the British apothecary as

"Cheating the sick of a few last gasps, as he sits
To pestle a poisoned poison behind his crimsoned lights."

Previous to 1860, the only laws against adulteration were special statutes legislated at various times concerning individual articles, such as tea, coffee, chicory, beer, and wine. Another act was passed in 1872, but dissatisfaction arising from its operation, a new act was passed in 1875 and amended in 1879 and is now the existing law. There is a large government laboratory in London, and there are also several government chemists, known as public analysts, in various parts of Great Britain, whose duty it is to examine all cases of suspected adulteration occurring in the districts over which they are appointed. These chemists have formed an organization known as the Society of Public Analysts. They meet regularly, present and discuss papers relating to methods of analysis of foods and drugs, standards of purity, and to general analytical and microscopical research. They publish a very valuable monthly journal of their proceedings. The English system, like the French, is a powerful agent against the adulteration and has done an immense amount of good.

In the United States, the only national legislation thus far enacted is the act of 1848, to secure the purity of imported drugs, that of 1883 regarding tea adulteration, and that of 1887, placing certain restrictions upon the manufacture of oleomargarine. A powerful effort is being made to have Congress pass at its present session a national act which will aim not only at the suppression of home adulterations but also the importation of foreign.

In several of the States, notably in New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Michigan, anti-adulteration laws are in active operation. New York passed her laws in 1881, amending them considerably in 1885 and 1886. The laws of Massachusetts prohibiting adulteration were passed in 1882. In both States extensive investigations have been carried on to ascertain the extent of the practice of food adulteration, and reliable statistics of incalculable value have thus been obtained. To these results I shall refer later. It may be of interest to give that portion of the Massachusetts Act which defines adulteration of foods:

"The term food, as used herein, shall include confectionery, condiments, and all articles used for food or drink by man."

An article shall be deemed to be adulterated within the meaning of this Act:

"In case of food: (1.) If any substance or substances have been mixed with it so as to reduce or lower or injuriously affect its quality or strength. (2.) If any inferior or cheaper substance or substances have been substituted wholly or in part for it. (3.) If any valuable constituent has been wholly or in part abstracted from it. (4.) If it is an imitation of, or is sold under the name of, another article. (5.) If it consists wholly or in part of a diseased, decomposed, putrid, or rotten animal or vegetable substance, whether manufactured or not, or, in the case of milk, if it is the produce of a diseased animal. (6.) If it is colored, coated, polished or powdered, whereby damage is concealed, or if it is made to appear better or of greater value than it really is. (7.) If it contains any added poisonous ingredient, or any ingredient which may render it injurious to the health of a person consuming it."

The question may be asked, "why has food adulteration been allowed to go so long unchecked?" Considering the extent to which the evil has been carried, the length of time it has been known to exist, and the obviously evil results of the practice, it is a matter of no little surprise that governments have been so slow in suppressing it. But the explanation of this circumstance is not far to seek. Legislative bodies act upon such questions in obedience to popular demands, and, regarding this subject of food adulteration, the public mind has not until very recently been brought to recognize the necessity of checking the unscrupulous greed which underlies the food adulteration practice. The intelligent sentiment which is essential to the consummation of this end has been retarded by two causes. In the first place, there has been a great lack of accurate popular information outside of technical scientific circles, the only reliable results of food investigations having, until recently, been confined to purely scientific journals and accordingly not having been prominently brought to the eye of public notice. In the second place, most of the literature generally accessible relating to the subject has been limited to sensational newspaper articles, creating temporary panics regarding cases of alleged food poisoning, which have afterward turned out to be either grossly exaggerated or wholly without foundation.

The means to be employed for the suppression of adulteration are obvious, detection and punishment. Nothing needs to be said on the latter point. With regard to the means by which the discovery of adulteration is effected, chemistry and the microscope are mainly used. Few adulterations can escape the search of a competent man equipped with these means. Chemistry is particularly adapted to the detection of the various mineral and many organic compounds used for adulterations; while the microscope is specially suited for the detection of all organized structures and substances, whether animal or vegetable. The microscope comes to our aid very often where chemistry fails.

What is the real extent of food adulteration as proved by reliable statistics? What are the foods most commonly adulterated? What are the adulterants employed? These are some of the questions which will be considered in the remaining portion of this paper.

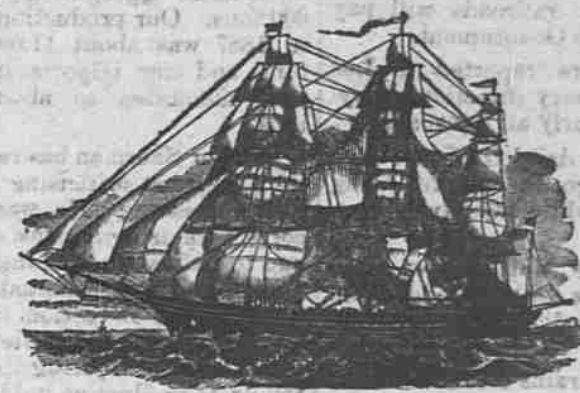
Ruskin says: "Man should resemble a river." Some men do, in one respect at least. The biggest part of them is their mouth.

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